

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

February 24, 2000

EIS001863

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EIS Project Manager, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 30307, M/S 010
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

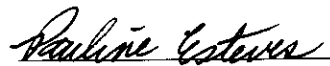
RE: Draft EIS, Yucca Mountain Project; and Proposed Rulemaking, Yucca Mountain Site Suitability Guidelines, 10 CFR Parts 960 and 963

Dear Ms. Dixon:

The Timbisha Shoshone Tribe requests an extension of time for (1) the Draft EIS for a Geological Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, and (2) U. S. Department of Energy's Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the Yucca Mountain Site Suitability Guidelines, 10 CFR Parts 960 and 963. The deadline for both very complicated and extremely important documents is February 28, 2000. Government to government consultation between the DOE and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe was inadequate. Consultation on the Draft EIS between the DOE and the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations (CGTO) can not be considered a substitute between real, in-depth, government-to-government consultation between the DOE and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe. In addition, the DOE provided absolutely no consultation for the CGTO or the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe in regards to Proposed Rulemaking concerning the Yucca Mountain Site Suitability Guidelines, 10 CFR Parts 960 and 963.

This is why the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, along with Corbin Harney as well as other Western Shoshone tribes, considers the consultation process between Native people and the DOE inadequate. Because of this, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe would like a two month extension for comments on the DEIS and the Proposed Rulemaking concerning the Yucca Mountain Site Suitability Guidelines, 10 CFR Parts 960 and 963, for all Native people. A similar request was made and granted when tribal representatives complained to the EPA that inadequate consultation was provided for the Proposed Rule, Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Yucca Mountain, 40 CFR Part 197. EPA then extended the comment period from November 26, 1999 to January 7, 2000, for comments from Native people. In a similar manner, we expect the DOE to respect this request for fair, good-faith, government-to-government consultation.

Sincerely,


Pauline Esteves
Tribal Chairperson
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe